

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /137 W
-----020808 231908Z /50

R 231630Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 529
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION UN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 7205

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 22, 1977

REF: A. GENEVA 7125, B. GENEVA 7156

1. SUMMARY: DURING AUG 22 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP, REPS DISCUSSED US-SOVIET BILATERAL TALKS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW), PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING ROUND OF CCD INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS ON CW, AUGUST 19 DISCUSSION AMONG CO-CHAIRMAN AND TWO NONALIGNED REPS ON POSSIBILITY OF FALL CCD SESSION, AND IDEA OF AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A CCD WORKING GROUP ON A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. END SUMMARY.
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2. IN AUGUST 22 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP (CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US), US REP (FISHER) INDICATED THAT THE CURRENT ROUND OF US-SOVIET CW TALKS HAS SO FAR BEEN TAKEN UP BY THE SOVIETS' PRESENTATIONS OF THEIR VIEWS ON THE SCOPE OF PROHIBITION (FIRST TWO MEETINGS) AND ON THE DESTRUCTION OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES

(AUGUST 22 MEETING). THE SOVIETS, US REP SAID, HAVE SAVED VERIFICATION AND CONTROL FOR LAST, INTENDING TO DEAL WITH THOSE QUESTIONS IN THE AUGUST 23 MEETING. THEN, PROBABLY ON AUGUST 25, THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER US-SOVIET MEETING, IN WHICH THE US DEL WOULD INTEND TO SUMMARIZE THE OVERALL STATE OF THE CW TALKS, PROVIDING A SORT OF "SCOREBOARD" WHICH WOULD COMPARE THE US PROPOSALS AND THE SOVIET PRESENTATIONS OF VIEWS. THEREAFTER, THE US REP STATED, THE US WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS BE HELD TOWARD THE END OF SEPTEMBER. TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS ON KEY ELEMENTS OF A CW BAN, US REP BELIEVED IT WOULD REQUIRE SEVERAL MORE ROUNDS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM FRG REP (SCHLAICH), US REP AND US EXPERT (MIKULAK) STATED THAT THE SOVIETS INCLUDE INCAPACITANTS IN THEIR VIEW OF A CW BAN, BUT SEEM TO BE HEDGING ON IRRITANTS. ALTHOUGH THERE SEEMS TO BE A SIMILARITY ON VIEWS ON THE GENERAL TOXICITY LEVELS APPLICABLE TO THE TWO THRESHOLDS, NO SPECIFIC NUMERICAL VALUES HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON. US EXPERT STATED THAT THE UPPER THRESHOLD VALUE (DIVIDING SUPER-TOXIC FROM TOXIC CHEMICALS) WOULD BE CLOSE TO THAT CONTAINED IN THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL OF 1974, AND THAT THE LOWER THRESHOLD VALUE (DIVIDING TOXIC FROM NON-TOXIC CHEMICALS) WOULD BE AT ABOUT THE TOXICITY OF CHLORINE.

4. NETHERLANDS REP (MEERBURG) SAID THAT IN CCD'S INFORMAL CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETINGS DUTCH EXPERT (OMS) PLANS TO GIVE A CRITIQUE OF SOVIET IDEAS ON EXTRATERRITORIAL VERIFICATION; WOULD THIS DETRACT FROM US-SOVIET BILATERAL TALKS? US REP RESPONDED THAT THE US HAS NO OBJECTION TO HAVING OTHERS SPEAK IN THE INFORMAL MEETINGS, BUT THAT THE US WOULD PREFER THAT SUCH REMARKS NOT BE OF SUCH A CHARACTER AS TO FORCE THE SOVIETS TO REPLY. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) SAID THAT FRG EXPERT (HOFFMANN) IS NOT PLANNING TO SPEAK IN THE INFORMAL MEETINGS, BUT THAT FRG REP WILL DISCUSS CW IN A PLENARY STATEMENT, PROBABLY ON AUGUST 25.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 7205

5. US REP INFORMED ALLIES OF AN AUGUST 19 DISCUSSION AMONG CO-CHAIRMEN (US, USSR), CHAIRMAN-OF-THE-WEEK OF NONALIGNED GROUP (DJOKIC, YUGOSLAVIA), AND MEXICAN REP (GARCIA ROBLES), ON THE QUESTIONS OF ADVANCING THE DISARMAMENT DEBATE IN THE UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE, AND OF HOLDING A FALL CCD SESSION. CO-CHAIRMEN, US REP STATED, HAD MADE THREE POINTS: (A) THE FIRST COMMITTEE'S SCHEDULE IS UP TO IT TO DECIDE; THE US AND USSR DO NOT OPPOSE CHANGING THE SCHEDULE BUT WOULD OPPOSE ANY LINKAGE OF SUCH A CHANGE WITH A COMMITMENT TO A FALL CCD SESSION; (B) THE US AND USSR REPS DO NOT KNOW WHEN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WILL RESULT IN A JOINT CW INITIATIVE; (C) IF CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE DOING SO APPROPRIATE, THE CO-CHAIRMEN MIGHT WISH TO CALL THE CCD BACK INTO SESSION AT SOME TIME BEFORE ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN THE SPRING, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT ANY WORDING ON THIS POINT ADOPTED THIS SUMMER SHOULD NOT EXPRESS A LINKAGE TO CHANGING THE UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE'S SCHEDULE OR TO THE PRESENTATION OF A US-SOVIET JOINT CW INITIATIVE. EMPHASIZING THE WORD "ALL," WHICH HAD BEEN INSISTED ON DURING THE MEETING WITH THE NONALIGNED REPS, US REP INDICATED THAT THE WORDING IN RELATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF RECONVENING THE CCD WOULD BE TO THE FOLLOWING EFFECT: "SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE."

6. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP

TO DRAFT A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP) OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, AS PROPOSED ON AUGUST 18 BY NIGERIA, FRG, AND CANADA (REFTELS), US REP SUGGESTED THAT A WESTERN REP MAKE A PLENARY STATEMENT ON AUGUST 23 WHICH WOULD PROPOSE THAT CCD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE CREATION OF A WORKING GROUP, WITH ITS DETAILED MANDATE TO BE ESTABLISHED AND ITS WORK TO BEGIN AT THE START OF CCD'S NEXT SESSION. IN ADDITION, US REP CIRCULATED EXAMPLE LANGUAGE OF A CCD PLENARY STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT, ILLUSTRATING WHAT HE HAD IN MIND. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE, US REP SAID, IF HE WERE NOT THE ONE TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, SINCE THE SOVIET ATTITUDE HAS TENDED TO BE NEGATIVE ON THIS QUESTION AND SINCE HE DOES NOT WANT TO OFFEND THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN.

7. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE TACTICAL SITUATION, FRG REP (SCHLAICH) OFFERED TO MAKE AN AUGUST 23 PLENARY STATEMENT ALONG THESE LINES, AND REPS OF US (FISHER), UK (ASHE), AND ITALY (DI BERNARDO) AGREED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL. CANADIAN REP (JAY) SAID HE HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS WHICH MIGHT PREVENT HIS ATTENDING THE PLENARY, BUT THAT IF HE WERE PRESENT HE WOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL ALSO.

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8. IN REGARD TO THE DOCUMENT OR DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR THE CNP WORKING GROUP'S DELIBERATIONS, REPS REFERRED TO 1970 PROPOSAL OF SIX NONALIGNED COUNTRIES (UNGA DOCUMENT NUMBER A/8191), 1961 US-SOVIET STATEMENT OF AGREED PRINCIPLES, ITALIAN AUGUST 18 STATEMENT IN CCD PLENARY (REFTEL A), AND SOVIET MEMORANDUM CIRCULATED AT TIME OF 31ST UNGA (FALL 1976). US REP STATED THAT IF ANY PARTICULAR DOCUMENTS WERE SPECIFIED, SOVIETS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INSIST ON THEIR MEMORANDUM BEING INCLUDED. FOR THIS REASON AND BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE A LONG LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS, ABOUT WHICH THERE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, US REP INDICATED THAT IT HAD SEEMED PREFERABLE TO HIM TO LEAVE THE QUESTION OF THE WORKING GROUP'S REFERENCE DOCUMENT(S) TO BE DECIDED AT THE START OF THE CCD'S NEXT SESSION.

9. REPS AGREED THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WOULD REMAIN AFTER THE MEETING TO WORK OUT LANGUAGE FOR THE FORMAL PROPOSAL TO BE RAISED IN CCD PLENARY ON AUGUST 23. US REP SAID HE WOULD INFORM THE SOVIET REP OF THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE PROPOSAL DURING LATER AFTERNOON, AUGUST 22, AND THAT THE TEXT WOULD BE PASSED TO HIM WHEN IT BECAME AVAILABLE.

10. NEXT WESTERN GROUP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 11:00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, AS REGULARLY SCHEDULED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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